UNIVERSITY ~ OF ~ TORONTO

THE BULLETIN

AUGUST 20, 2001 ~ 55TH YEAR ~ NUMBER 2

Stem Cell Debate Heats Up

BY MEGAN EASTON

HEN U.S. PRESIDENT George W. Bush made his first live television broadcast earlier this month it wasn't about national security, the economy, drugs or any of the usual issues deemed worthy of such a dramatic public statement. It was about stem cells, an arcane sphere of biomedical research that has raised the hopes of some people and the ire of others — and the world was listening.

While the controversy around stem cell research has captured the public imagination, it is the researchers whose work depends on these contentious little cells who have the most at stake. Scientists here were especially attentive to the U.S. announcement because the Canadian government is still working on legislation and funding guidelines for working with stem cells.

The promise of stem cells lies in their unique ability to heal or rebuild human tissue by reproducing themselves or growing into a variety of more advanced cell types. Scientists are exploring ways to control and manipulate these processes to produce new cell therapy treatments for debilitating illnesses such as spinal cord injury, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, diabetes and heart disease. The cells come from a variety of sources including mouse embryos, adult human tissue, human umbilical cord blood and human embryos, but it is the latter source that has provoked fierce debate.

University Professor Janet Rossant of medical genetics and microbiology and Mount Sinai Hospital led the working group that produced the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) guidelines on stem cell research. These go further than the American guidelines by allowing researchers to derive new cell lines from unused embryos at infertility clinics. The U.S. government will only fund research on embryonic

~ See STEM: Page 8 ~



 $Post-doctoral\ student\ Hong-Xia\ Zhang\ examines\ a\ genetically\ engineered\ to mato\ at\ a\ U\ of\ T\ greenhouse$

Scientists Engineer Salt-Resistant Tomato

New plant technology offers hope for salt-damaged lands

BY JANET WONG

A TOMATO PLANT THAT'S BEEN genetically engineered to thrive in salty irrigation water may hold the key to one of agriculture's greatest dilemmas.

Developed by former U of T botany professor Eduardo Blumwald and post-doctoral student Hong-Xia Zhang, it's the first truly salt-tolerant crop and it's this fact that may offer the best hope for lands with salt-damaged soils and salty irrigation water.

Blumwald, who conducted the research here in U of T's green-houses, recently moved to the pomology department at the University of California at Davis. He continues to operate a lab here where Zhang still works.

"Since environmental stress due to salinity is one of the most serious factors limiting the productivity of crops, this innovation will have significant implications for agriculture worldwide," Blumwald said.

The researchers say these salttolerant tomatoes offer hope that other crops can also be genetically modified for planting in many areas of the world that have salty irrigation water and salt-damaged soils. Their findings were published in the July 31 issue of *Nature Biotechnology*.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, an estimated 24.7 million acres (10 million hectares) of once agriculturally productive land are being lost worldwide each year because of irrigation-induced salinity. Crop production is limited by salinity on 40 per cent of the world's irrigated land.

It is this progressive loss of farmable land that is the problem, putting it into a collision course with the expanding global population. Over the next 30 years the population is expected to require an increase in food production of 60 per cent in developing nations.

Although scientists have been trying to develop salt-tolerant crop varieties using selective breeding techniques throughout the past century, none of those efforts has proven successful.

Crop irrigation is an age-old practice that allows farmers to be less dependent on seasonal rainfall and the uncertainties of the weather. However, irrigation also increases

the salinity of soils and water by depositing in the fields soluble salts such as sodium, calcium, magnesium, potassium, sulfate and chloride picked up by water as it passes through rocks and soils. Eventually these salts accumulate in the irrigated soils at levels that decrease the vigour and productivity of the crops grown there.

Salty irrigation water wreaks havoc on most plants by upsetting their ability to take in water through their root cells. In fact, if salt concentrations in the soil are very high, flow of water into the plant is actually reversed and the plant dehydrates and dies as water is drawn out of its cells.

To counter this effect, Blumwald and Zhang genetically engineered tomato plants that produce higher levels of a naturally occurring protein known as a "transport protein." The gene that controls increased production of the transport protein was taken from *Arabidopsis*, a relative of the cabbage that is commonly used in plant research.

The transport protein uses energy available in the cells to move salt

~ See SCIENTISTS: Page 2 ~

U of T Assures PhD Funding

BY KIM LUKE

Tof T is about to become the first Canadian university to offer a guaranteed level of financial support for graduate students pursuing doctoral degrees. The support package, which is being rolled out in almost all U of T faculties this September, starts at a minimum of \$12,000 plus tuition and fees (\$17,600 for 2001-02) and will be available for up to five years of study.

The guarantee, say university administrators, will help put graduate students at U of T on a more equal footing with their counterparts in the United States.

"Graduate students are key to our strength as a research university," said Professor Ian Orchard, vice-provost (students). "We want to attract the best and ensure they have the resources to achieve their academic goals. This guarantee is a big step in that direction."

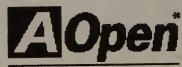
The guarantee may have another benefit as well: it could help cut the time it takes some students to complete their degrees by reducing their financial pressure and the resulting need to take on full- or part-time work. Data show that the average time to completion for a PhD student at U of T ranges from 4.9 years in the life sciences up to 6.1 years in the humanities with many students doing a one-year master's degree first.

While some \$11 million is being allocated to this effort, the university would need closer to \$18 million to provide the five-year guarantee to all doctoral-stream students at current enrolment levels, Orchard said. The shortfall is expected to be made up largely through the university's fundraising campaign which has made graduate student support a key priority; the goal is to raise \$100 million for graduate student aid by 2004. Part of this endowment will be used to provide the necessary match for the new Ontario Graduate Scholarship program, which saw an increase in the number and value of awards in 2001.

A graduate student's funding package may be made up from a variety of sources including external awards such as SSHRC, NSERC or CIHR scholarships, research or

~ See U OF T: Page 2 ~

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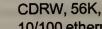
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U of T Assures PhD Funding

~ Continued From Page 1 ~ teaching assistantships and other U of T funding. The funding package does not include any loans. In 1999-2000 an average doctoral student at U of T received \$14,700 per year in support. This is expected to increase to over \$19,000 in 2001-02, largely because of the guarantee.

"The immediate impact of the guarantee is to bring funding for our doctoral and doctoral-stream students up to a level that makes graduate education accessible again," said Professor Pekka Sinervo, vice-dean, Faculty of Arts and Science. "It is a significant first step for our graduate programs and most students are going to benefit immediately from it. But the real impact will be felt over the long term because it begins to make us competitive with our peer institutions in recruiting outstanding graduate students."

A U of T task force on graduate student financial support found that the average amount in graduate support at American universities in 1997-98 was \$12,167 Cdn excluding tuition. In 1998-99, doctoral-stream students at U of T received on average less than \$8,000 excluding tuition.

Jorge Sousa, president of the Graduate Students' Union, agrees that the guarantee is great news for graduate students. "The bottom

line is that now there is a minimum. It's not enough but it's a start," said Sousa, noting that the GSU is "cautiously optimistic" that funds can be raised to further increase graduate support. The GSU would like to see the guarantee include students outside of the doctoral stream, particularly those students at OISE/UT where funding levels for graduate students are low relative to the rest of the

Almost all faculties in the university are rolling out the guarantee for this September, although Provost Adel Sedra set a deadline of 2004. "Most departments in medicine will meet or exceed the guaranteed level of support this year," said Professor Catharine Whiteside, associate dean (interfaculty and graduate affairs), noting that all of medicine's departments are expected to be on board within two years.

OISE/UT is working towards offering the guarantee to all eligible students by the deadline as well but have faced a huge challenge: "OISE's budget for student support at the time of the merger with U of T in 1996-97 was only \$2.9 million," explained OISE/UT dean Michael Fullan. "With the support of the provost, we've increased it to almost \$5 million but we need to raise more to fully realize the

guarantee for all our eligible students."

Departments with resources, especially those generating substantial amounts from external granting agencies, are already able to offer packages well above the guaranteed minimum. This is the case, for example, in the laboratoryintensive science programs in chemistry and physics as well as in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. "Our faculty will try to go beyond that, where possible, with the goal of offering at least \$22,000 because of the intense competition for top students," said former engineering dean Michael Charles.

The guarantee is already making an impact on U of T's recruitment efforts. For Tieku Kwasi, a graduate student in political science who was considering offers from different universities, it was the clincher. He chose to come to U of T to do his PhD because of the guarantee.

"I wanted to avoid potential distractions that could inhibit early completion of the program," he explained. "Bearing in mind the options available, two questions became paramount: what level of funding will enable me to live a decent scholarly life? and how sustainable is it? The duration and the level of U of T's guarantee funding for doctoral studies aptly answered these questions."

Scientists Engineer Tomato

~ Continued From Page 1 ~

— in the form of sodium ions into compartments within the cells called vacuoles. Once the salt is stashed inside the vacuoles it is isolated from the rest of the cell and unable to interfere with the plant's normal biochemical activity.

These genetically engineered salt-tolerant plants actually remove salt from the soil. And because their salt-storing activity occurs

only in the plants' leaves, the quality of the tomato fruit is

The researchers demonstrated that the genetically engineered tomato plants grow and produce fruit even in irrigation water that is about 50 times saltier than normal. The plants were irrigated with water having a salt concentration of 200 mM sodium chloride; this is more than one-third as salty as seawater, which is about 530 mM sodium chloride.

Blumwald projects that, with proper funding, it would be possible to develop commercially useful salt-tolerant tomato plants within

The research was funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and by the Will W. Lester Endowment from the University of California.

Editor Leaves for New Zealand

JILL RUTHERFORD, EDITOR OF THE BULLETIN SINCE DECEMBER 1999, STEPS down this week to assume a senior media adviser role at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. Steven de Sousa, currently news services officer (health) in the public affairs office, will take over the editorship and can be reached at steven.desousa@utoronto.ca.



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BY JILL RUTHERFORD

THERE'S A FAMOUS CLIP FROM the movie Animal House — John Belushi stuffing his face with mashed potatoes, grossing out members of a rival frat house. All hell breaks loose and the food fight is on ...

It's a scene that sends shivers down the spines of school administrators. Fortunately, while off-campus communal living may sometimes resemble the worst antics of Animal House, supervised residences here at U of T play a different role in the lives of students, a role that's about to take on a much greater significance.

With the anticipated arrival of some 8,000 more students in the next five to 10 years — due to expanding demographics and the socalled double cohort of Ontario high school graduates — U of T has set an ambitious \$100-million residence building agenda in order to fulfil its pledge to house any first-year student who requests on-campus housing. Administrators want to add some 2,600 new residence beds to the total 5,000 students currently housed on the three campuses; residence space is so short that the university has been forced to rent floors of the downtown Primrose Hotel for the third straight year.

The need is clearly critical in Canada's most expensive city where safe, affordable housing for young people is at a premium. But the task is also a daunting one especially for the St. George campus where planners must strike a delicate balance between pressing need and a desire to preserve older architectural styles along with cherished green space.

St. Michael's College has almost completed its impressive new residence, its features melding with existing buildings, while construc-

tion will soon begin on those slated for New College and the Mississauga and Scarborough campuses. The Varsity Stadium redevelopnient project also includes plans for residence space.

But perhaps the most imposing and controversial of these projects is that of Woodsworth College — a planned 16- or 17-storey structure that would house 350 first-year students plus about 10 residence dons. That building would replace the old graduate student residence at the corner of St. George and Bloor streets, now home to 280 students.

"The first principle of the university in terms of residences is this: we're trying to create a home-away-from-home feeling for students. Second, we want to offer affordable housing. And third, we want to provide good living space with lots of light in a building that exhibits good urban design principles," said Professor John Browne, director of residence development.

Residence life is a "critical feature of a successful experience at university, especially for first-year students," added Susan Addario, director of Student Services. With the double cohort and the elimination of the Grade 13, students entering university will be progressively younger, she said, with the corresponding need for "controlled environments in which programs are offered, students are supervised and supported and university staff can identify students who may be falling through the cracks. That's much more difficult to do with those living off campus."

Andrea Howard, a 22-year-old New College student and residence president, agrees. She said residence "essentially becomes a home. You build a community here that provides you with a lot of support, both personal and academic. It also helps avoid the isolation you encounter living in an apartment by yourself. "U of T really is a big place and you have to carve out a niche of your own."

As for Animal House antics, Howard is quick to dispel those stereotypes: "That happens outside of residence. You'd get kicked out if you tried pulling any of those stunts."

Enhancing student well-being is at the heart of the design plans for the Woodsworth residence, Browne said. While local ratepayers and neighbours have voiced concerns over the height of the structure, he said the taller building would allow more light into rooms than a lower, slab-sided construction. And that's an important consideration for student living and studying.

But perhaps the best news of all is that students entering in the fall of 2003 when the building is slated to open would pay an equivalent-to-monthly rent of between \$575 and \$600 — a sweet deal in a city with spiralling rents and a vacancy rate of less than one per cent. (See housing story, page 3.)

"That's a huge social contribution to our students in a market where rents are being pushed up, up and up," Browne said. "And we can structure it this way because unlike developers who must purchase the land and then factor that into the rents they charge, we have no associated land costs."

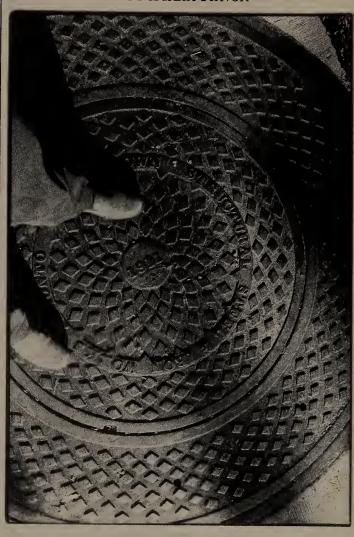
But concerns about the building remain and no community consensus has been reached, despite at least five public meetings hosted by the university. "There are still points of view that have to be ironed out," Browne conceded.

The U of T proposal, which would require rezoning at that site, has gone directly to the Ontario Municipal Board for approval. That hearing is set for mid-October.

CURIOSITIES

Man Underground

By MICHAH RYNOR



ACK IN 1912 MANY INDIVIDUAL BOILER PLANTS ON CAMPUS WERE connected to the just-constructed Central Heating and Lighting Plant on Queen's Park Crescent. This pioneering distribution network created what was then only the second university district energy system in all of Canada, providing low-pressure steam and direct current power to 21 campus buildings through tunnels. This ornate 58-inch steel access plate (circa 1911) outside the Medical Arts Building on King's College Circle is part of the original installation and is commonly known as the largest manhole cover left in downtown Toronto where the average access cover is a puny 27 inches.

Study Reveals Growing Gap Between Renters, Owners

A STUDY BY A U OF T HOUSING expert confirms what many in the highly competitive housing markets of Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal have suspected for some time — that the divide between the home-owning "haves" and the renting "have-nots" is widening.

Using data from the 1984 and 1999 Statistics Canada survey of household income, Professor David Hulchanski, director of the Centre

for Urban and Community Studies, compared the income and wealth of owners with that of renters. The results, while not entirely surprising to those shelling out top dollar for rental accommodation, point to a disturbing trend — the emergence of two distinct groups of housing consumers within the Canadian market, with the income gap between them increasing by about one per cent a year.

That trend, Hulchanski said, has major social and economic implications for Canadians. And he's hoping Canada's housing ministers, who met last week in London, Ont., will take action. "We must recognize that very few renters have enough income to cover the cost of housing," he said. "Right now, we're passing the buck, saying the private sector will do it—but it's not happening."

Renters' income is "just way too

low" to stimulate market demand for new rental housing units, Hulchanski said. "Social need is something the market simply can't respond to." One of the key problems is that Canada has these two income groups competing with each other in the one housing market supplied solely by the private sector. Governments at both the federal and provincial levels have cut public funding for social housing, increas-

ing the squeeze on available units.

Defining wealth as a person's net worth — savings plus the value of assets such as a house — Hulchanski found that the average wealth of Canadian renters has dropped from \$4,000 in 1984 to \$2,000 in 1999. By contrast, the income and wealth of Canada's homeowners increased from 29 times to 70 times that of renters, "revealing a huge gap between the top of the income scale and the bottom."





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IN THE NEWS



U of T people are in the news every day. The following is a sample from August. To submit items for this column, please e-mail Sue Toye, sue.toye@utoronto.ca.

Inquiry into Vatican's Second World War role suspended

INTERNATIONAL HEADLINES WERE MADE WHEN A JOINT Jewish-Catholic panel of scholars examining the role of the Vatican and Pope Pius XII during the Second World War announced the suspension of its inquiry, citing the Vatican's refusal to release all archival material from that time. Tensions increased when a Vatican spokesperson then accused Jewish members of the panel - including U of T dean of graduate studies and history professor Michael Marrus - of launching a "slanderous campaign" against the Vatican. The panel was set up in 1999 to review 11 volumes of published material on the activity of the Vatican during the war vears. Marrus told the National Post in July that "unfortunately, those in charge of the Vatican's archives seem unprepared at present to take the essential steps toward full disclosure and unfettered research."

Poems for an execution

MURDER, MYSTERY AND INTRIGUE SWIRLED THROUGH the airwaves on CBC Radio's program The Arts Today when host Eleanor Wachtel interviewed award-winning poet and U of T English professor George Elliott Clarke in August. He gave the program's audience a taste of his latest work, *Execution Poems*, which is a fictional account of the real-life crimes of two men who were hanged in Fredericton, N.B., in 1949 for the murder of a taxi driver. The condemned men, Clarke discovered, were his own relatives.

Humans still out-think machines

How far are we from producing a robot that has the mental faculties like Steven Spielberg's ideal child in his movie A.I.? Very far, according to computer science professor Hector Levesque, co-director of the Cognitive Robotics Project at U of T. The Toronto Star interviewed him at a recent conference on artificial intelligence in Seattle, Wash. Levesque, who chaired the conference, told The Star that humans make better decisions with more information whereas machines do not. "The more rules and facts about the world we give (to the computer), the slower the system behaves."

Hot strings, cool soprano

SONGBIRD AND U OF T FACULTY OF MUSIC ALUMNA Measha Brueggergosman continues to make headlines and this time it's *Time Canada*, which featured her in its Aug. 6 issue. Billing her as a "diva," the magazine profiles her ascent to operatic stardom and describes her talent as a "distinctive vocal personality." "I want to make an audience feel an intense emotion that they and I will remember," she told *Time*. The Juno award-winning St. Lawrence String Quartet was also profiled by *Time* in the same issue. Called "cool strings," this gifted foursome all graduated from U of T and the Royal Conservatory of Music.

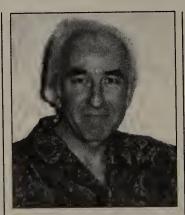
COMPILED BY SUE TOYE

IN MEMORIAM

Corson Fought for Social Justice in Education

PROFESSOR DAVID CORSON OF the departments of theory and policy studies and curriculum, teaching and learning at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto died May 30 after a yearlong battle with cancer. He was 56 years old.

Corson was born and grew up in Australia and taught at the University of Tasmania and later at Massey University in New Zealand before joining OISE/UT in 1992. He was an accomplished and prolific academic before he came to Toronto, but during his 10 years at OISE/UT his writing took on a new intensity; Corson published 16 academic books and countless articles on a variety of topics related to language, social justice and education. One of his most ambitious projects, editing the eight-volume Encyclopedia of Language and Education, was published in 1998 by Kluwer Academic Publishers. As well, he wrote two historical novels chronicling the spread of the Roman Empire and the lives and times of its peoples — the first of these Domitia and Domitian was published last year; he finished the epilogue of the second, Trajan and Plotina, just days before he died.



Language policy in schools was a consistent theme throughout Corson's academic work. He insisted that school-based language policies were central to changing education in the direction of greater social justice. For Corson creating coherent policies could allow educators to address such issues as the rights of speakers of minority languages (and dialects) to have their languages respected and promoted in schools. He strove to replace what he believed to be meaningless rhetoric on multiculturalism in cities like Toronto with policies and programs that genuinely promoted cultural and linguistic diversity as resources that enrich the lives of all students and educators.

A passionate and eloquent advocate for social justice in education, Corson worked closely with indigenous peoples on three continents - Maori educators in New Zealand, Sámi in Norway and Inuit in Nunavut — to articulate and promote viable models of bilingual education that would reinforce and revitalize the indigenous language. "It is fitting that David's last major academic work was his report on bilingual education options for Nunavut," said Professor Jim Cummins, a colleague and friend. "If implemented, the directions articulated by David will radically alter the administration and the curriculum of the Nunavut education system.

Corson had little tolerance for hypocrisy in any form and was direct in communicating his views - from criticizing the elite high school he attended as a scholarship student as "an authoritarian bastion of class-privilege with an anemic vision of education" to the Harris government's "one-size fits all" education policies, Cummins said. "He taught many of us to search for the real values that lie beneath the surface of things and he did so with wit, warmth and wisdom. He has left a legacy to education and to educators that is truly priceless."

EVENTS



LECTURES

The Ethics of Cohen's System of Philosophy.

MONDAY, AUGUST 27
Prof. Michael Zank, Boston University; in conjunction with conference on the ethics of Hermann Cohen. 161
University College. 9 p.m. Arts & Science, Jewish Studies, Shoshana Shier Distinguished Visiting Professorship, Joseph & Gertie Schwartz Memorial Lectureship, Foundation Dialogik and Mary & Hermann Levin-Goldschmidt (Zurich)



SEMINARS

IGF-IR Signal Transduction in Tumorigenesis and Apoptosis.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
Dr. D. LeRoith, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda. 3231 Medical Sciences Building. 4 p.m. Physiology

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

Natural Capital, Poverty and Development.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 TO SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Conference is organized around four sessions aimed at the following themes: Natural Capital, Institutions and Development; Poverty, Development and Fragile Lands; Measurement Issues in Natural Resources, Development and Poverty; and Ecotourism, Biodiversity and Development. A working session with breakout groups will tackle specific problems and questions raised in the plenary sessions. It is expected that both "instruments" and "policy" recommendations will be derived from what will be a remarkable body of international experts from the natural and social sciences. Munk Centre for International Studies. Information: www.utoronto.ca/env/ies.htm.

EXHIBITIONS

JUSTINA M. BARNICKE GALLERY HART HOUSE Fireworks 2001

JULY 26 TO AUGUST 23
Handcrafted clay and glass works; organized by Fusion: The Ontario Clay & Glass Association. Both galleries. Gallery

hours: Monday to Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m.

ROBARTS LIBRARY Embrace Taiwan.

SEPTEMBER 10 TO OCTOBER 5. Photo exhibition highlights the scenery, human rights and high-tech developments of Taiwan and includes collection paying homage to missionary George Leslie Mackay, a Canadian hero in Taiwan. Co-sponsored by East Asian studies, Asian Institute and Taiwan Economic & Cultural Office, Toronto. Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to midnight; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 10 p.m.



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Choosing Child Care That Works for Your Family.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23
Session covers types of care available,

Session covers types of care available, costs, evaluation of caregivers and other information parents need to make the best decision for their children. Health Services Seminar Room. Koffler Student

Services Centre. Noon to 1:30 p.m. Information and registration: family.care@utoronto.ca.

Carillon Recital Series.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26
Suzanne Magassy, national carillonneur,
Canberra, Australia. Soldiers' Tower.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
Margo Halstead, carillonneur, University
of Michigan at Ann Arbor. Soldiers'
Tower. 3 p.m.

Historical Walking Tours.

To August 31

An entertaining and informative tour of the historic St. George Campus. Nona Macdonald Visitors Centre. Monday to Friday, 10:30 a.m., 1 and 2:30 p.m. Theatrical tours every Saturday at 11:15 a.m. Information: 978-5000.

Fathers' Group.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Meet other fathers at U of T to talk, discuss

Meet other fathers at U of T to talk, discuss issues, find out about resources and share insights. Noon. Registration and information: 978-0951, family.care@utoronto.ca.

Radical Equations: New Visions for Education.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Forum will feature speakers Margaret Atwood, Naomi Klein, David Cayley and Annie Kidder; host: Clifton Joseph, poet and performance artist; fundraising event in celebration of 35th anniversary of *This Magazine*. Hart House Theatre. 8 p.m. Tickets \$35; benefactor tickets \$150 (includes access to an exclusive postforum reception as well as a charitable tax receipt).



DEADLINES

Please note that information for Events listings must be received in writing at The Bulletin offices, 21 King's College Circle, by the following times:

Issue of September 10, for events taking place Sept. 10 to 24: MONDAY, AUGUST 27.

UNIVERSITY - OF - TORONTO

THE BULLETIN

EDITOR: Jill Rutherford • jill.rutherford@utoronto.ca

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Ailsa Ferguson • ailsa.ferguson@utoronto.ca

PRODUCTION: Michael Andrechuk • C.A.Zyvatkauskas • Carnelia Linta

ADVERTISING/DISTRIBUTION: Joan Rogers • joan.rogers@utoronto.ca

DIRECTOR: Susan Bloch-Nevitte • s.bloch.nevitte@utoronto.ca

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COMMITTEES

The Bulletin regularly publishes the terms of reference and membership of committees.

The deadline for submissions is Monday, two weeks prior to publication.

Search

DEAN, FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK In accordance with Section 60 of the Policy on Appointment of Academic Administrators (Perron Rules), President Robert Birgeneau has established a committee to recommend the appointment of a dean of the Faculty of Social Work effective July 1, 2002. Professor Wesley Shera will complete his term as dean June 30, 2002. Members are: Provost Adel Sedra (chair); Professors Adrienne Chambon, David Hulchanski, Lynn McDonald, Cheryl Regehr and Nico Trocmé, Faculty of Social Work; Ron Daniels, dean, Faculty of Law; Bruce Kidd, dean, Faculty of Physical and Health Education; and Michael Marrus, dean, School of Graduate Studies; and Tina Cheng, MSW candidate, Teresa Knott, PhD candidate, Natalie Pawlenko,

president, alumni/ae association, and Laila Saleh, chief administrative officer, Faculty of Social Work; and Linda Jackson, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

The committee would welcome comments and nominations from interested persons. These should be sent to the attention of Lesley Lewis, assistant vice-provost (professional faculties), by August 31; mail, Room 221, Simcoe Hall; fax, 416-971-1380; e-mail, lesley.lewis@utoronto.ca.

PRINCIPAL, WOODSWORTH COLLEGE In accordance with Section 62 of the Perron Rules, President Robert Birgeneau has established a committee to recommend the appointment of a principal of Woodsworth College; Professor Angela Hildyard, former principal, left that post to assume the position of vice-president (human resources). Members are: Provost Adel

Sedra (chair); Professors Carl Amrhein, dean, Faculty of Arts & Science; Frank Cunningham, principal, Innis College; Michael Marrus, dean, School of Graduate Studies; Frank Reid, director, Centre for Industrial Relations; Wendy Rotenberg, director, commerce program; Mariana Valverde, Centre of Criminology; and Rob Vipond, chair, political science; and Deborah Donnelly, vice-president (external affairs), Woodsworth College Students Association; Mary Jane Dundas, chief administrative officer, Mahdiesadat Seyed Aliroteh, student, and Beverly Simpson, alumna, Woodsworth College; and Lynn Snowden, assistant vice-provost (arts and science),

The committee would welcome nominations and comments from interested persons. These should be sent to Lynn Snowden by September 21, 416-978-4578, l.snowden@utoronto.ca.

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To receive a tearsheet and/or receipt please include a stamped self-addressed envelope. For more information please call (416) 978-2106 or e-mail joan.rogers@utoronto.ca.

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Sabbatical rental — Annex (Davenport & Albany Avenue). September 2001 — July 2002 (dates negotiable). Beautiful condo townhouse, 3 bedrooms or 2 bedrooms and study. Furnished, hardwood floors, garden, air-conditioned, indoor parking. 10 minutes to U of T. \$1,800/month, utilities extra. E-mail jugergrayson@aol.com or 905-673-5064.

Annex — September to December 2001: Exquisite Victorian on Madison, 3 blocks to U of T, furnished 4-bedroom, 4 plus fireplaces, huge eat-in kitchen, garage, large master with ensuite, 2 laundries, \$2,800/month plus utilities, negotiable. 416-978-7128.

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Bathurst and Dupont. Newly furnished one-bedroom apartments, 12' ceilings, pine floors. Short- or long-term rental available. \$1,500/month. Hydro, phone, cable included. 416-790-7492 or ctse@myexcel.ca

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Annex. Beautiful, furnished spacious 1-bedroom plus study in quiet, clean house. Hardwood floors, 6 appliances, free parking. No smoking/pets/children. Suit mature single academic/professional. References. October 15, 2001 — July 15, 2002 (negotiable). \$1,400 p/m + utilities. E-mail Ymeil2@

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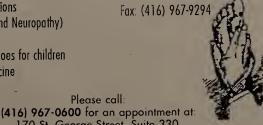
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THE SCREENING ROOM

Professor-turned-programmer seeks "unknowns" for film festival
By MICHAH RYNOR

oronto Is a CITY FILLED with film fanatics but even the most obsessive aficionado of the flickering image would find it hard to compete with Professor Kay Armatage.

Armatage, who teaches cinema and women's studies, is one of Canada's most distinguished film experts and has been a key programmer at the Toronto International Film Festival since 1983. It is in this role that you'll find her sitting through hundreds — and hundreds — of movies every year.

Right now, she's trying to get her life back to normal after an exhausting spring of intensive screenings for this September's festival which will present some 300 films from over 50 countries. "My viewing schedule gets really hectic in May and June because all of us working for the festival are trying to see as many films as possible that weren't finished in time for Cannes," she explains.

Known for selecting edgier independent flicks as opposed to the bigger budget, star-laden vehicles, Armatage chose for this year's festival approximately 10 films by women directors, five documentaries and "10 or 12 American independent works with the rest coming from around the world." Festivals in Rotterdam, Berlin and Cannes are traditionally her best hunting grounds.

And her prey are new films from unknown directors.

Preferring to go into screenings knowing as little about a movie as possible to keep an open mind, she admits that the plot isn't as important to her as much as cinematic values such as innovative structure, editing and the different ways in which a film is shot.



Professor Kay Armatage

She also hopes to uncover films that will end up becoming part of the new canon of cinema taught in universities.

Being a programmer is a natural fit for Armatage the academic. In the late 1970s she became known for her regular contributions to the Canadian film magazine *Take One* and for her work with the highly successful 1973 Women's Film Festival in Toronto.

She is also a writer/director of seven experimental films, coeditor of the book *Gendering the Nation: Canadian Women's Cinema* and author of an upcoming study of silent screen actor/director Nell Shipman. Her involvement with the Toronto Film Festival, then, is a logical extension of her scholarly fascination with the silver screen.

A maxed-to-the-limit Armatage, usually absent from most of the festival parties, takes her programming role very seriously.

"Programmers like me have a tremendous responsibility to support the films that we choose and shepherd them through the festival to make sure critics, curators, distributors and festival programmers from around the world see them," she explains. "That's because, as it is, many of the films I've selected are ones you've never heard of and may never see again."

So respected is Toronto's festival—and Armatage herself—that it's become commonplace for strangers to walk up to her at international screenings, politely introduce themselves, then press a video cassette of their latest movie into her hands.

"I discourage them if I know for sure their film won't find a place with our festival, especially something like a 25-minute drama or

something that's already played at other festivals. My focus and the focus of the festival is on new films never seen before."

So how many films will cinema junkie Armatage treat herself to during the festival's September 6 to 15 run?

"Zero," is her immediate reply. "Not only is this the time when I meet my new students but there is just too much work to do with the festival itself. I'll be introducing each film that I picked, act as a host to my directors and producers as well as taking part in the usual networking, organizing and problem solving. It's like being involved in an academic conference — but this one lasts two weeks and has 30,000 participants."

Stem Cell Debate Heats Up

~ Continued From Page 1 ~ stem cells taken from the 60 or so existing cell lines around the world.

Rossant says the Canadian research community generally supports the draft CIHR guidelines. University Professors Emeriti James Till and Ernest McCulloch of medical biophysics, who made the pioneering discovery of stem cells in the blood forming system in the 1960s, say that the proposed Canadian framework is more in the interest of both scientists and the public than the U.S. counterpart. "We have a very strong stem cell research program in Canada," said Till. "I would hate to see it handicapped by a spillover from the U.S." McCulloch added that the American guidelines may force talented researchers to leave the country. "You cannot confine science," he said.

Other researchers agree that severely restricting human embryonic stem cell research could hinder scientists' progress in determining the best source of stem cells for future therapies. Research has already shown that embryonic stem

cells are pluripotent, meaning they are capable of growing into the complete range of specialized cells and tissues. Adult stem cells are known to have a more restricted potency, though new studies suggest they may have broader flexibility to grow into other tissue types than previously thought.

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EMERITUS ERNEST McCulloch

"The reality of the situation is that we don't know right now what the best source of cells is going to be for the downstream applications," said Professor Peter Zandstra of the Institute of

Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering. Zandstra, a Canada Research Chair in biomedical engineering, works with mouse embryonic and adult stem cells to investigate the conditions needed for the cells to regenerate outside the body and form usable tissue for clinical applications. He said he would

consider extending this research to human embryonic stem cells if Canadian policy allowed it.

But not all scientists embrace the idea of having access to human embryos. "There has to be some civilian oversight to the limits of science," said Dr. Paul Ranalli, a lecturer at U of T and a neurologist at the University Health Network. "We've seen where science has gone when it's been unchecked at different times in this century alone and the results are often very unpleasant." Like many of

the opponents of research with embryos, Ranalli firmly believes that a unique human being with a right to life is created when egg and sperm join.

And even those scientists who

staunchly defend their right to use human embryos agree that one thing must be prohibited — human cloning. While some researchers support therapeutic cloning, where scientists create human embryos solely for research, most if not all consider reproductive cloning, where the intent is to create

There has to be some civilian oversight to the limits of science.

We've seen where science has gone unchecked

genetically identical animal or human offspring, dangerous and morally unacceptable.

~ Dr. Paul Ranalli

But beyond this almost universal abhorrence for reproductive cloning there is little consensus on the ethics of stem cell research, where opinions range from the intense condemnation of anti-abortion groups to the researchers who reject all limits on their science.

Professor Abdallah Daar, director of the program in applied ethics and biotechnology at the Joint Centre for Bioethics, believes the

crux of the matter lies in how people define life and humanity. Critics of embryonic stem cell research say life begins at conception, but he says the issue is more complex.

"We need to inquire if this is full human life that should therefore have the same amount of respect, rights and obligations as a child who has already been born or an adult, or do those rights and obligations and expectations and moral regard increase from the moment of fertilization and in time become closer to human life after it is

orn?"

These are perennial questions with no easy answers, and they will continue to be asked long after all the laws and guidelines are in place.